

Washington D.C.- Today, Congressman Dan Lungren (R-CA) released the following statement regarding the Emancipation Proclamation Commemoration Act:

"Yesterday I had the opportunity to introduce legislation to commemorate the 150th anniversary of the Emancipation Proclamation, an executive order issued by President Lincoln to free all slaves by January 1, 1863. The order was issued when the nation was still in the throes of the Civil War, when the fate of the Union hung in the balance. President Lincoln knew that giving slaves freedom would further anger Confederate States who believed their economic livelihood rested on their "right" to own other human beings as property.

"Nevertheless, the Emancipation Proclamation was issued - not because it was politically expedient, but because it was right. To the extent that I can pay tribute to Abraham Lincoln's legacy, and the legacy of others who sacrificed everything on behalf of the right to liberty for all residents of the United States, I am honored to do so.

"The Emancipation Proclamation Commemoration Act does not only look back to celebrate historic national achievements. It also looks forward. Unfortunately, the problem of chattel slavery is not behind us. Modern day slavery - the ownership and trafficking of human beings against their will - is an enormous global industry with revenues estimated at \$32 billion annually.

"The Sacramento region, which I represent, is a leading hub of child sex trafficking. Because human trafficking, by its very nature, is an underground activity, it is difficult to determine the precise number of victims and the range of perpetrators. Moreover, traffickers use sophisticated international networks to move their victims from one place to another to escape detections. For this reason, H.R. 4346 will also establish a Commission to study the scope of modern-day slavery - i.e., human trafficking.

"As a fiscal conservative, I am concerned about the cost of every piece of legislation to which I sign my name. I have worked with my colleagues on the other side of the political aisle to

ensure that the cost of the study is not excessive.

"The members of the "Commission will serve without pay. They have the discretion to hire an Executive Director to manage the study, which will be the only paid position related to the study. Any additional staff needed to assist the Executive Director will be pulled from existing federal and state agency staff - which means no additional salary expenses will be incurred.

"You may also be interested to know that I am also working on legislation to protect children from sex trafficking by preventing or monitoring the international travel of sex traffickers. The bill is modeled after "Megan's Law," which I worked on while I served as the Attorney General of California."

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Congressman Dan Lungren serves as Ranking Member on the House Administration Committee in addition to serving on the Judiciary and Homeland Security Committees